

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03
AGRE-00 HA-05 DODE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 /118 W
-----093782 121719Z /46

R 111620Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7782
INFO AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 13560

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, EEC, AD
SUBJECT: READ-OUT ON EC COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON'S JULY
6-7 VISIT TO LUANDA

REF: BRUSSELS 12221 (NOTAL)

1. AN EC COMMISSION DEVELOPMENT OFFICIAL WHO ACCOMPANIED DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER CLAUDE CHEYSSON TO LUANDA JULY 6-7 GAVE US FOLLOWING READ-OUT ON VISIT:

- A. CONVERSATIONS WITH GOA MINISTER OF PLANNING
- AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REVEALED THAT
- ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT IS PRE-OCCUPIED BY GRAVITY OF ITS
- INTERNAL ECONOMIC SITUATION. DESPITE IDEOLOGICAL
- CONSTRAINTS FELT BY SOME MEMBERS OF GOVERNING
- COUNCIL, GOA HAS APPARENTLY DECIDED TO ACTIVELY
- SOLICIT WESTERN ECONOMIC AID.

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- B. PRESIDENT NETO, WHO ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE
- APPEARS HEALTHY AND LUCID AND IS "CLEARLY DOMINANT
- FIGURE IN GOA", INQUIRED ABOUT LOME CONVENTION
- OPERATIONS IN CONTEXT OF HYPOTHETICAL ANGOLAN
- ACCESSION TO LOME II, BEGINNING IN 1980. CHEYSSON
- WELCOMED GOA INTEREST IN CONVENTION AND, IN COURSE

- OF 2-3 HOUR CONVERSATION, EXPLAINED ITS VARIOUS
- FEATURES, INCLUDING TRADE, AID AND STABEX PRO-
- VISIONS. COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON REPORTEDLY
- ALSO TOLD NETO EC COMMISSION IS WILLING TO PROVIDE
- FOOD AID AND OTHER ASSISTANCE (INCLUDING POTENTIAL
- BENEFITS OF A REGIONAL TRANSPORT PROJECT TO BE
- FINANCED BY THE EC'S EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND) IN
- THE INTERIM PERIOD PRIOR TO EXPIRY OF LOME I IN
- 1980.

- C. ACCORDING TO OUR COMMISSION SOURCE,
- LIKELY NEXT STEPS IN EC-GOA RELATIONS ARE: (A)
- FORMAL ACCREDITATION OF AN ANGOLAN AMBASSADOR
- TO THE EC, TO FACILITATE INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND
- CLOSER TIES AND (B) POSSIBLE GOA REQUEST FOR
- OBSERVER STATUS AT A LATE STAGE IN EC/ACP
- NEGOTIATIONS ON LOME II, EXPECTED TO CONCLUDE
- IN EARLY 1979. COMMISSION DEVELOPMENT OFFICIALS
- BELIEVE GOA INTEREST IN ACCESSION TO LOME IS
- STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY LEADERS FROM OTHER FORMER
- PORTUGUESE COLONIES NOW SIGNATORIES TO CONVENTION
- (E.G., SAO TOME, GUINEA BISSAU, CAPE VERDE).

2. REGARDING ANGOLAN VIEW OF AFRICAN PEACE-KEEPING
FORCE PROPOSAL, WE UNDERSTAND THAT NETO ARGUED STRONGLY
AGAINST THE IDEA PRIMARILY ON IDEOLOGICAL GROUNDS, IN HIS
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PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH CHEYSSON. NETO REPORTEDLY
INDICATED HE WOULD ADHERE TO THIS VIEW IN DEBATES ON
THIS SUBJECT AT OAU SUMMIT.

3. COMMISSION OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT WHILE ANGOLA'S
OVERRIDING CONCERN IS ITS BLEAK INTERNAL ECONOMIC
OUTLOOK, NETO AND OTHERS IN GOA ALSO CONTINUE TO BE
TROUBLED BY SHABA AND NAMIBIA SITUATIONS. IN RESPONSE
TO MISSION OFFICER'S QUESTION REGARDING GOA ASSESSMENT
OF OUTLOOK FOR NEGOTIATED NAMIBIA SETTLEMENT, COMMISSION
SOURCE SAID NETO TOLD CHEYSSON HE IS NOT OPTIMISTIC
BECAUSE OF HIS PROFOUND DISTRUST OF BASIC SAG INTENTIONS.
THIS FEELING OF DISTRUST WAS REPORTEDLY HEIGHTENED
BY RECENT KILLINGS IN CASSINGA. HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, VISITS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRUSSE13560
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780285-1033
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780776/aaaacyl.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7809cf77-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BRUSSELS 12221
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2057576
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: READ-OUT ON EC COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON'S JULY 6-7 VISIT TO LUANDA
TAGS: EAID, EEC, (CHEYSSON, CLAUDE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7809cf77-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014